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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 15th, 21st, 25th, 34th, 40th and 43rd meetings, from 12 to 15 and on 20, 22 and 29 October and 10 and 19 November 2009. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/64/SR.8-12, 15, 21, 25, 34, 40 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-second and forty-third sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/64/151);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/64/152);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38).

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/64/190);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/64/218);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/64/342);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/64/79-E/2009/74);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/64/164 and Corr.1).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 12 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made introductory statements and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Egypt, Australia, Malaysia, Sweden (on behalf of the European Union), the Syrian Arab Republic, Chile, the United States of America, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand and India; a statement was also made by the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see A/C.3/64/SR.8).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.16 and Rev.1 and amendment thereto contained in document A/C.3/64/L.25

5. At the 21st meeting, on 20 October, the representative of France, on behalf of Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/64/L.16). Subsequently, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Chile, the Congo, El Salvador, Paraguay and Togo joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007 and 63/155 of 18 December 2008, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming* the strong support expressed in its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009 for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser

on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, to be led by an Under-Secretary-General,

"*Recalling* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, and welcoming the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict and 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security,

"*Welcoming* Human Rights Council resolution 11/2 of 17 June 2009,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming also* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming further* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recognizing* that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

"*Stressing* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the

perpetrators of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and welcoming the recent appointment of the Special Representative on Violence against Children,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, pursuant to its resolution 63/155;

"2. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, and taking into account national priorities, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices;

"3. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and welcomes its ongoing work to compose a manual on joint programming with a view to increasing effective support of national efforts to eliminate violence against women;

"4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress made in the Secretary-General's campaign for 2008-2015 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', through the development of a framework for action outlining five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform 'Say NO to violence against women', the United Nations inter-agency initiative 'Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict' and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end violence against women, in close consultation with existing system-wide activities on violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the basis of the results of his campaign, and encourages all Member States to work towards the achievement of the five key outcomes by 2015, as outlined in the framework for action;

"5. *Calls upon* the Inter-Agency Programme Appraisal Committee, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to include in its next strategy for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, ways and means to further

enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund once finalized;

"6. *Welcomes* the fact that United Nations country teams were invited to apply for funding through the Trust Fund;

"7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund, while noting with concern the serious decrease in available funding in 2009, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million dollars by 2015 as set by the Trust Fund;

"8. *Stresses* that within the United Nations system adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to eliminate violence against women and girls, calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary capacity and resources available in order to allow the Task Force on Violence against Women to undertake a resource flow analysis to assess the resources available for this work and elaborate recommendations for their most effective and efficient use, and calls upon the United Nations system to respond swiftly to those recommendations once issued;

"9. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, and expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence;

"10. *Urges* all States to regularly provide the Secretary-General's database on violence against women with updated information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

"11. *Welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission during its fortieth session, as well as the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session and thereafter to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolution 63/155 and the present resolution, including on the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report."

6. At its 34th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/64/L.16/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.16 and Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, Honduras, Hungary, Latvia, Malawi, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Republic of Tanzania. Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, the Bahamas, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cyprus, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, India, Israel, Jamaica, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, San Marino, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the Group of Arab States, introduced an amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.16/Rev.1 contained in document A/C.3/64/L.25, by which, after the last preambular paragraph, a new operative paragraph 1 would be inserted, reading:

> "*Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflict in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflict and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflict are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on and give priority attention and increased assistance to the plight and suffering of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law",

and the remaining operative paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

8. Also at the 34th meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement and requested a vote on the amendment contained in document A/C.3/64/L.25.

9. At the same meeting, the proposed amendment was rejected by a recorded vote of 60 to 52, with 40 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

> Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, United

Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

10. Statements were made before the vote by the representatives of the United States of America and Peru; statements were made after the vote by the representatives of Colombia and Serbia (see A/C.3/64/SR.34).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.16/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 30, draft resolution I).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by representatives of Chile, Liechtenstein, Malaysia and the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.3/64/SR.34).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.17

13. At the 21st meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (A/C.3/64/L.17). Subsequently, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary,

Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Finland orally revised it as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 13, which read:

"13. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to those efforts",

was replaced by:

"13. *Continues to encourage* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and urges Governments to contribute to those efforts";

(b) In operative paragraph 16, the words "the establishment of a joint working group" were replaced by the words "the joint working group", and the words "maximizing existing resources" were inserted at the end of the paragraph;

(c) In operative paragraph 20, the words "to the Convention" were deleted after the words "States parties";

(d) In operative paragraph 22, the words ", where they exist," were inserted after the words "human rights institutions".

15. At the 25th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of Finland further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) Before the final preambular paragraph, the following preambular paragraph was inserted:

"*Noting with appreciation* the elaboration and adoption by the Committee, at its forty-second session, of general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers";

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 4, the words ", including the most recent one, general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers" were deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 11, the words "the implementation of" were deleted before the words "its recommendations".

16. Also at its 25th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.17, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 30, draft resolution II).

17. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic (see A/C.3/64/SR.25).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.18 and Rev.1

18. At the 34th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Belarus, Indonesia and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Violence against migrant women workers" (A/C.3/64/L.18). Subsequently Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews,

"*Noting with appreciation* the various activities initiated by entities of the United Nations system, such as the Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration held by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, and the discussions held by the Commission at its fifty-third session, during which it recognized the particular situation of women migrant domestic workers, including girl migrants, and noting the contribution of the International Labour Organization through the development of a Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, as well as other activities through which the plight of women migrant workers continues to be assessed and alleviated,

"*Recalling* the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women,

"*Recognizing* the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

"*Stressing* the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, and, in this regard, recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the bilateral, regional and international levels,

"*Acknowledging* the contribution that women migrant workers make to development through the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination,

"*Recognizing* the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to their countries of origin,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices and exploitative conditions of work,

"*Recognizing* that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers,

"*Reaffirming* the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

"*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and, in this regard, observing with concern that the phenomenon of de-skilling of women in overseas labour may increase their exposure to exploitation and abuse,

"*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

"*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, among other things, the Internet, and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

"*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

"*Encouraged* by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction, such as the establishment of protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints, or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

"*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as all human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers;

"3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences submitted to the Council at its eleventh session, which raised the current issues of exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

"4. *Encourages* Governments and all special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to work together to improve the collection of information on and analysis of the current challenges facing women migrant workers;

"5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights and gender perspective in legislation and policies on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with international human rights standards, for the prevention and protection of migrant women from violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination and bias against women;

"6. *Urges* Governments to support women migrant workers as key contributors to social and economic development by placing greater importance on the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers;

"7. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter illegal migration;

"8. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as

well as to strengthen efforts in reducing the vulnerability of women migrant workers, including by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

"9. *Also urges* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, to prevent their labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including domestic work;

"10. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries, particularly in the fields of entertainment and domestic work, where there is a high incidence of exploitation and abuse, promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

"11. *Requests* Governments to encourage banks and financial institutions to provide remittance channels that are safe, simple, accessible and affordable to decrease the risk of abuse and exploitation of women migrant workers in the management of their economic resources;

"12. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, including those in irregular situations, to have access to emergency health services and to ensure that pregnancy and childbirth are not used as reasons to repatriate or deport women migrant workers;

"13. *Also calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as access to counselling, legal and consular assistance and temporary shelter, as well as mechanisms to allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, to avoid the forced return and deportation of victims and, to the extent possible, to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers;

"14. *Further calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators and intermediaries of violence against women migrant workers, and redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively, as well as to ensure that migrant women victims of violence do not suffer from re-victimization, including by authorities;

"15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to

prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

"16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

"17. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment;

"18. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection and analysis methodologies that will generate comparable data and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers;

"19. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers, and calls upon States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to consider the recommendation;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur mentioned in paragraph 3 above, and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations."

19. At its 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Violence against migrant women workers" (A/C.3/64/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.18 and Argentina, the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. Subsequently, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Ghana, Haiti,

India, Jamaica, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

20. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The title of the revised draft resolution was replaced by "Violence against women migrant workers";

(b) In operative paragraph 5, the words "their obligations under agreed international human rights instruments" were replaced by the words "their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments";

(c) Operative paragraph 17, which read:

> "17. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, to direct the competent authorities within their jurisdiction to inform her of her rights in this regard and, if she so requests, to inform without delay the consular post of the State of origin of the woman migrant worker",

was replaced by:

> "17. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to ensure, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, that competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality".

21. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.18/Rev.1, as orally revised without a vote (see para. 30, draft resolution III).

22. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Singapore (see A/C.3/64/SR.43).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.19

23. At the 21st meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Senegal and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/64/L.19). Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, India, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Paraguay, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

24. At the 40th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Mongolia orally revised the text as follows:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development" were replaced by the words "recalling the Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha";

(b) In operative paragraph 2 (f), the words "HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support" were replaced by the words "HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services";

(c) In operative paragraph 2 (g), the words "including increased financial resources" were replaced by the words "including resource generation", and the words "as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services" were inserted after the words "women in rural areas";

(d) In operative paragraph 2 (j), the words "their equal access to productive employment and decent work" were replaced by the words "access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work";

(e) Operative paragraph 2 (r) which read:

> "(r) Designing and revising laws to ensure that, where private ownership of land and property exists, rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information",

was replaced by:

> "(r) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information";

(f) In operative paragraph 2 (t), the word "Increasing" was replaced by the word "Developing", and the words "while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations organizations" were inserted at the end of the paragraph;

(g) In operative paragraph 3, the words "*Urges* Governments" were replaced by the words "*Strongly encourages* Member States", and the words "the negative impacts" were replaced by the words "any negative impact".

25. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.19, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 30, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.60

26. At its 43rd meeting, on 19 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/64/L.60), submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations.

27. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.60 without a vote (see para. 30, draft resolution V).

F. Draft decision contained in document A/C.3/64/L.3

28. At its 15th meeting on 15 October, the Committee decided, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/233 of 28 July 2009, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", as contained in document A/C.3/64/L.3 (see para. 31, draft decision I).

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chairperson

29. At its 43rd meeting, on 19 November, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 31, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

30. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007 and 63/155 of 18 December 2008, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the strong support expressed in its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009 for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, to be led by an Under-Secretary-General,

Reaffirming also the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming further that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[2] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[5]

Reaffirming the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] See resolution 48/104.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and at the 2005 World Summit,[7]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, and welcoming the adoption of Council resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict and 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 11/2 of 17 June 2009,[8]

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Stressing that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate acts of violence against women and girls and punish the perpetrators, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing its appreciation for the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and welcoming the recent appointment of the Special Representative on violence against children,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[9] submitted pursuant to its resolution 63/155;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, and taking into account national priorities, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices;

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[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] See resolution 60/1.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/64/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[9] A/64/151.

3. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support of national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", through the development of a framework for action outlining five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women", the United Nations inter-agency initiative "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, in close consultation with existing system-wide activities on violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the basis of the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

5. *Calls upon* the Inter-Agency Programme Appraisal Committee, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to include in its next strategy for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, ways and means to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund once finalized;

6. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", while expressing its appreciation for the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund;

7. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to eliminate violence against women and girls, calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available in order to allow the Task Force on Violence against Women to undertake a resource flow analysis to assess the resources available for this work and elaborate recommendations for their most effective and efficient use, and also calls upon the United Nations system to respond swiftly to those recommendations once issued;

8. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women,[10] expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide the Secretary-General's database on violence against women with updated information, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

9. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission during its fortieth session,[11] and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session, and thereafter to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, on recent follow-up activities to implement resolution 63/155 and the present resolution, including on the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report.

[10] www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase.

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 4* (E/2009/24), chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/110, para. (b).

Draft resolution II
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/218 of 22 December 2007 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Reiterating the need to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women throughout the world,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[1] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[3] in particular those paragraphs concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5]

Welcoming the declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[6] in which the Commission recognized that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women,

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[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[7] in conjunction with the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, to be held from 1 to 12 March 2010,

Recalling that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] Heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention, and recalling also that the 2005 World Summit Outcome[9] reaffirmed that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development and peace and security,

Recognizing that the equal enjoyment by women of all human rights and fundamental freedoms will promote the realization of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the special needs of girls, and acknowledging the mutual reinforcement of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[10] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[11]

Noting that 18 December 2009 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Noting also that 6 October 2009 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

Having considered the reports of the Committee on its fortieth,[12] forty-first,[12] forty-second[13] and forty-third[13] sessions,

Noting with appreciation the elaboration and adoption by the Committee, at its forty-second session, of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers,[14]

Expressing deep concern at the great number of reports that are still overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[15]

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[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 7* (E/2009/27), chap. I, sect. E, resolution 53/1, para. 3.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] See resolution 60/1.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[11] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/63/38).

[13] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38).

[14] Ibid., part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

[15] A/64/342.

2. *Also welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Convention,[4] which now stands at one hundred and eighty-six, while expressing disappointment that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Further welcomes* the growing number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention,[5] which now stands at ninety-eight, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

4. *Urges* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen assistance to States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention;

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee of Convention-specific reporting guidelines,[16] which must be applied in conjunction with the harmonized reporting guidelines on a common core document;[17]

8. *Recalls* the great number of overdue reports, in particular initial reports, and urges States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in a timely manner, in accordance with article 18 thereof;

9. *Also recalls* its resolution 50/202 of 22 December 1995, in which it took note with approval of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which has yet to enter into force, and urges States parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to accept the amendment;

10. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible and the amendment can enter into force;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and welcomes the decision by the Committee to introduce a procedure to enhance the follow-up of its recommendations;

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[16] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/63/38), part one, annex I.

[17] See HRI/GEN/2/Rev.5, chap. I.

12. *Welcomes* the gradual alleviation of the backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee;

13. *Continues to encourage* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, to strengthen their capacity in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and urges Governments to contribute to those efforts;

14. *Invites* States parties to make use of the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat to facilitate the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports;

15. *Encourages* the continued participation of members of the Committee in inter-committee meetings and meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, including those on methods of work relating to the State reporting system;

16. *Encourages* the Committee, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the treaty bodies, and welcomes as a positive example the joint working group of the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and in this regard invites the Committee to consider other informal cooperative initiatives maximizing existing resources;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, including as set out in the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

18. *Urges* Governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

19. *Encourages* States parties to disseminate the concluding comments adopted in relation to the consideration of their reports, as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

20. *Encourages* States parties and all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

21. *Urges* the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

22. *Welcomes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions, where they exist, to the work of the Committee;

23. *Invites* the Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the World Summit for Social Development[5] and their reviews,

Noting with appreciation the various activities initiated by entities of the United Nations system, such as the Regional Programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the high-level panel discussion on the gender dimensions of international migration held by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fiftieth session, the discussions held by the Commission at its fifty-third session, during which it recognized the particular situation of women migrant domestic workers of all ages, and the general discussion on migrant domestic workers held by the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families at its eleventh session, and noting the contribution of the International Labour Organization through the development of a Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration, as well as other activities through which the plight of women migrant workers continues to be assessed and alleviated,

Recalling the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009: Overcoming Barriers — Human Mobility and Development*,[6] which discussed, inter alia, the need to protect women migrant workers from abuse, exploitation and violence,

Noting the decision of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to include discussion of the issue of decent work for domestic workers in the agenda for the ninety-ninth session of the International Labour Conference in June 2010,

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[1] See resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] Basingstoke, United Kingdom, Palgrave Macmillan, 2009; also available from http://hdr.undp.org.

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Stressing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, and, in this regard, recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Acknowledging the contribution that women migrant workers make to development through the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices and exploitative conditions of work,

Recognizing that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[7] to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and, at the same time, in which they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience

[7] Resolution 61/295, annex.

and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, among other things, the Internet, and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction, such as the establishment of protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints, or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[9] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[10] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[11] as well as all human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled "Political economy of women's human rights", submitted to the Council at its eleventh session,[12] in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of the current challenges

[8] A/64/152.
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[10] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[11] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[12] A/HRC/11/6.

facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights and gender perspective in legislation and policies on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination and bias against women;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia, in order to deter illegal migration;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts in reducing the vulnerability of women migrant workers, including by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child, through adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Urges* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of immigration status, to have access to emergency health care and, in this regard, to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth;

12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as access to counselling, legal and consular assistance and temporary shelter, as well as mechanisms to allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, to the extent possible, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish both perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively, as well as to ensure that migrant women victims of violence do not suffer from re-victimization, including by authorities;

15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

17. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[13] to ensure, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, that competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard, to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

18. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment;

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[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

19. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection and analysis methodologies that will generate comparable data and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the elaboration and adoption by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of general recommendation No. 26, on women migrant workers,[14] and calls upon States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[15] to consider the recommendation;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs, that refer to the situation of women migrant workers, and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38), part one, annex I, decision 42/I.

[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Draft resolution IV
Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005 and 62/136 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also the importance attached to the problems of rural women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[1] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women[2] and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[3] including the review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcomes, and in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] in which Member States resolved, inter alia, to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] in which they also resolved to promote gender equality and eliminate pervasive gender discrimination by taking all the necessary resolute action,

Welcoming the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[7]

Noting the attention paid to the improvement of the situation of indigenous women in rural areas in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[8]

Recognizing the work of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, especially the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting education for all, giving particular attention to girls and women in rural areas,

Welcoming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[9] as well as the Johannesburg Declaration on

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[1] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[8] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[9] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[10] in which Governments were called upon to mainstream the gender perspective into development at all levels and in all sectors, and recalling the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha,

Welcoming also the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council, adopted on 2 July 2003,[11] which stressed the need for rural development to become an integral part of national and international development policies and of activities and programmes of the United Nations system, and called for an enhanced role for rural women at all levels of rural development, including decision-making,

Recalling the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in 2003 and Tunis in 2005, as well as the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the World Summit in 2005,[12] which reaffirmed the commitment to building capacity in information and communications technology for all and confidence in the use of information and communications technology by all, including, women, indigenous peoples and remote and rural communities,

Recognizing the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty,

Reiterating that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, while recognizing that rural areas of developing countries continue to be home to the vast majority of the world's poor people,

Recognizing the contributions of older rural women to the family and the community, especially in cases where they are left behind by migrating adults or as a result of other socio-economic factors to assume childcare, household and agricultural responsibility,

Reiterating the call for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty, including for rural women, and in this regard applauding the resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including for rural women, a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty eradication strategies,

Recognizing the urgent need to take appropriate measures aimed at further improving the situation of women in rural areas,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[13]

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[10] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 35.

[12] See A/60/687, chap. I, sect. B.

[13] A/64/190.

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services;

(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health through addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and

universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as pre- and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(h) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(i) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(j) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(k) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female-headed households, for their economic empowerment;

(l) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(m) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by, inter alia, expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(n) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(o) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household and childcare responsibilities;

(p) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local

communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(q) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(r) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

(s) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them;

(t) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations organizations;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Invites* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to pay due attention to the situation of rural women in the consideration of its priority themes;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies;

7. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and relevant organizations of its system to ensure that the needs of rural women are mainstreamed into the integrated process of follow-up to the major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in particular the Millennium Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus held in Doha, the 2005 review and appraisal of the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for

Action[2] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly[3] and the 2005 World Summit;[4]

8. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 63/159 of 18 December 2008,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit[4] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake, at its fifty-fourth session, a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals,

Taking into consideration the theme of the annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council in 2010, "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women",

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and noting with appreciation all of its agreed conclusions, including the latest agreed conclusions, on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-third session,[5]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[6] and stressing the importance of the continued integration of a gender perspective in the work and activities of the Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[7]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[8] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006,[9] which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[10]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, and welcoming the

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[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 7* (E/2009/27), chap. I, sect. A, para. 1.

[6] E/2009/71.

[7] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[8] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[9] Resolution 60/262, annex.

[10] A/63/364.

adoption of Council resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict and 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security,

Welcoming its resolution 63/311 of 14 September 2009, in particular the provisions on strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women, reaffirming its strong support expressed therein for the consolidation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women into a composite entity, taking into account the existing mandates, to be led by an Under-Secretary-General, and looking forward to the full implementation of resolution 63/311,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[11]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[12] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and

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[11] A/64/218.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible, and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the opportunities provided in intergovernmental bodies in 2010 to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and gender balance, including the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the annual ministerial review to be held by the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women", the high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000;

7. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors to fully utilize the opportunities provided in intergovernmental bodies in 2010, including intergovernmental consultations, with a view to ensuring prompt progress as set forth in resolution 63/311, including strengthening the institutional arrangements for the support of gender equality and empowerment of women, so as to accelerate progress in the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women based on the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

8. *Underlines* the significance of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which the Commission will undertake the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session, emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the full realization of all Millennium Development Goals, including Goal 3;

9. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fifty-third session, which continue to focus attention on the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation

[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

10. *Encourages* participation at a high political level in the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Invites* States and requests relevant bodies of the United Nations system to publicize the forthcoming sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, including through consultation with civil society;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and, in this regard, welcomes the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

14. *Reiterates* its call to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, new functions such as the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council and the Development Cooperation Forum, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[15] to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December 2009, and to give attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women in preparations for such events, and in this regard, looks forward to efficient and effective support for these efforts by the consolidated gender entity, upon its establishment;

15. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work

[15] Ibid., vol. 1771, No. 30822.

within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

16. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis, sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

18. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

20. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session, to report to the General Assembly on a biennial basis, beginning at its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and to include in his report on human resources management information on the status of women in the United Nations system, including on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

21. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for implementation of commitments to gender equality and empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes, and by achieving gender balance;

22. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation, taking into account the discussions and outcome of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission in respect of the fifteen-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the review of the outcome of the twenty-third special session.

31. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

The General Assembly, recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/9 of 25 July 2006, in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-third session, would discuss the possibility of conducting in 2010 a review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2] taking note of Commission resolution 53/1,[3] in which the Commission decided to review, at its fifty-fourth session, the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the Assembly, emphasizing the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and noting that the Commission, in the same resolution, decided to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in that regard recommended, through the Council, that the Assembly hold a commemorative meeting during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission in March 2010, decides to hold the commemorative meeting to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Draft decision II
Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the advancement of women

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following reports submitted under the agenda item entitled "Advancement of women":

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-second and forty-third sessions;[4]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[5]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[6]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 7* (E/2009/27), chap. I, sect. E.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38).

[5] A/64/79-E/2009/74.

[6] A/64/164 and Corr.1.